

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 092212
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY EA/TIMBS:REFRITTS

APPROVED BY EA:RBOAKLEY

EA/TIMBS:DLMFIELD

S/NM:RSLUTZ

S/S: TMARTIN

-----077776 110537Z /13

R 110224Z APR 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY RANGOON

S E C R E T STATE 092212

EXDIS

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: SNAR, BM

SUBJECT: NARCOTICS

REF: STATE 090518

1. DURING CONVERSATION APRIL 7, DAS OAKLEY REVIEWED CURRENT USG ATTITUDES ON ANTI-NARCOTICS COOPERATION WITH GUB AMB U TIN LATT. OAKLEY NOTED HE (AND EA ASST SECY HOLBROOKE) HAD MET EARLIER THAT DAY WITH CONG WOLFF TO DISCUSS A NUMBER OF MATTERS INCLUDING THE NARCOTICS PROGRAM IN BURMA. OAKLEY REVIEWED HIS UNDERSTANDING OF GUB ATTITUDES AND OUR CURRENT AND PLANNED ASSISTANCE LEVELS. HE ALSO DISCUSSED THE SUBSTANTIAL CONGRESSIONAL CONCERN WHICH HAS DEVELOPED OVER THE UTILITY AND END-USE OF US EQUIPMENT USED IN ANTI-NARCOTICS WORK AROUND THE WORLD -- PARTICULARLY, FOR EXAMPLE, IN CENTRAL AMERICA WHERE

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NARCOTICS PROBLEMS IN MEXICO, COLOMBIA AND PANAMA HAVE RECEIVED MUCH PUBLICITY. THIS INCREASES THE NEED FOR THE USG AND GUB TO COOPERATE IN ENSURING THAT US-EQUIPMENT IS BEING USED DEMONSTRABLY FOR THE PURPOSES PROVIDED AND NOT, AS IS SOMETIMES ALLEGED, FOR OPERATIONS AGAINST KAREN AND KACHIN VILLAGES. HE ALSO OUTLINED THE IMPORTANT ROLE OF DEA IN INTELLIGENCE COLLECTION AND TRANSMITTAL.

2. AMB U TIN LATT LISTENED ATTENTIVELY ASKING QUESTIONS AND STRESSING THE GUB POLICY AGAINST PERMANENT STATIONING OF FOREIGN POLICE AGENTS ON BURMESE SOIL. HOWEVER, DEA COULD VISIT "ONE HUNDRED TIMES PER YEAR IF IT WISHED." ON END-USE MONITORING, HE UNDERSTOOD US RATIONALE AND SEEMED TO BELIEVE MORE COULD BE DONE, BUT COMMENTED IT "... WOULD TAKE 100 RUDY HALL'S" IF ONE WISHED TO MONITOR THE FLIGHT OF EACH AIRCRAFT AND HELICOPTER.

3. MEETING ENDED WITH DAS OAKLEY NOTING THAT CONVERSATION WAS TO EMPHASIZE IMPORTANCE OF ISSUE TO USG PREPARATORY TO DISCUSSIONS THAT AMB BEAN WOULD BE HAVING SHORTLY IN RANGOON. FYI: GUB AMB STATED HE WAS CONSIDERING CALLING ON CONG WOLFF AT SOME POINT IN FUTURE TO DISCUSS THE PROBLEMS, AND WAS SEEKING APPROVAL FROM FONOFF OF INVITATION FOR WOLFF TO VISIT BURMA. END FYI. VANCE

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NNN

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